

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**June 16, 2016**  
**Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center**  
**7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Michael Sheehan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Gloria Lanum called the roll and a quorum was present.

**Present:** Commissioner Michael Sheehan, Chairperson, John Murphy, Vice-Chairperson, Nellie Blue, Alan Bond, Dave Caudle, Sandra Falk-Michaels, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Mary Jones, Victoria Laupp, Nicolette McClure, Gerald McCole, Roy Pentilla, Mary Lou Proefrock, Patricia Rencher, Donald Ryan, Gary Scholten, Susan Vick, Wendy White, Kathleen Williams-Newell, and Ex-Officio Members: Robyn Ford and Elizabeth Thompson

**Excused:** Regina Allen, Kellie Boyd, Vicente Castellanos, Charles Corwin, Thomas Hartwig, Pamela McKenna, Jean Peters, Angie Perone, Mona Sashital, Terry Vear, Ginny Wood-Broderick, and John Zimmerman

**Resigned:** Perry Ohren

**Guests:** Julie Kline and Joyce Ryan

**Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) Staff present:** Richard Kline, Gloria Lanum, and Lauren Swanson-Aprill

**Agenda:** The State Advisory Council (SAC) approved the agenda as presented.

**Minutes:** The SAC approved the March 17, 2016, minutes.

**Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) Acting Executive Director's Report:**  
**Richard Kline** reported that:

- He has been traveling the state for speaking engagements. Older Michiganian's Day was a great success where the Senior Volunteer of the Year was announced. The Gatekeeper luncheon was held following the May Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) meeting to honor a Consumer Energy staff member. Richard also attended the celebration of Belle Isle Senior Power Days.
- The AASA FY17 budget fared well and rose 2.5 percent. The Governor is expected to sign the appropriations bills soon.
- The AASA FY 16 budget is on track which is a testament to AASA staff experience and proficiency.
- The Ombudsman Request for Proposals to move the program to an outside non-profit agency are due July 22, 2016. The CSA approved moving the Ombudsman program, which will give the Ombudsman more flexibility in

meeting its advocacy responsibilities. This program was housed within a nonprofit agency for many years. AASA will continue to manage the grant and provide oversight to the successful bidder.

- The SAC Charge, *Creative Aging* is interesting and it is broad and crucial. Richard and the AASA staff will continue to support the SAC as members research this important topic.
- Regarding the merger with MDHHS, there are a few minor changes including with submitting grants; there are no major operational changes and everything is stable.
- There has been a transition in leadership since Kari Sederburg resigned to work for the Michigan Health Endowment Foundation. Richard was appointed as the AASA acting executive director and Scott Wamsley moved into the AASA acting deputy director position. Tim Becker, Richard's boss, recently resigned. Richard is not sure when the AASA executive director and deputy director positions will be posted.

The issue of the proposed loss of the Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and the reduction of Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) funds in the federal FY 17 budget was raised. AASA staff will research the issue and provide information to the SAC as it is available.

#### **Old Business:**

**Commission Report:** **Commissioner Sheehan** provided the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) May 20, 2016, meeting report:

- The Commission reviewed the guidelines of the Area Agency on Aging (AAAs) Annual Implementation Plans. All 16 AAAs follow the same guidelines and in August and September they will present their plans to the Commission that oversees this process.
- The Commission also presented the Gatekeeper Award.
- The SAC charge, *Creative Aging* was approved by the Commission.

**SAC Direct Care Worker Report Follow-up:** **Commissioner Sheehan** explained that he and the Commission are pushing to send a copy of the SAC's *Direct Care Workers: Training, Certification, Accountability, Retention* to the Governor, the Legislature and the aging network. SAC member **Wendy White** shared that a staff member of the local community mental health board had read the report and was very impressed and excited about the recommendations in the report. **Lauren Swanson-Aprill** shared that the cover letter is almost complete and will be sent with the report soon. AASA is currently working with Michigan State University and Community Services Network on plans to implement many of the recommendations made in the report and are working together to write grants to fund meeting our goals for training and retaining direct care workers to support our growing older adult population and people with disabilities. The report is posted on the AASA website:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/osa/SAC\\_DCW\\_REPORT\\_FINAL\\_5-216\\_330pm\\_525239\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/osa/SAC_DCW_REPORT_FINAL_5-216_330pm_525239_7.pdf).

**New Business:**

**SAC Membership Update: Commissioner Sheehan** asked new SAC members Travis Bergmans and Bozena Bienias to introduce themselves. Travis Bergmans is a doctor of audiology, works for the Veterans Hospital in Ann Arbor and is from Howell-Region 1B. Bozena Bienias is working on film documentaries and served for five years as a member of the Region 5 (Flint) Valley AAA Senior Advisory Council.

**Lauren Swanson-Aprill** reviewed with the SAC the current openings for SAC members and has contacted those AAA directors about the openings. She also asked SAC members to recommend possible applicants. The Commission SAC Applicant Review Workgroup will convene in July to review any applications received by June 30, 2016.

**Commissioner Sheehan** emphasized that we will continue to follow the SAC attendance policy as outlined in the SAC Bylaws. The Chairperson of the Commission is to be notified when a SAC member has had two unexcused absences or four excused absences from SAC meetings or conference calls during a year.

**Recognition: Commissioner Sheehan** recognized **John Murphy** for serving as the **SAC Vice Chairperson** for the past two years with a plaque and emphasized that John Murphy changed the role of this position by actively working with Commissioner Sheehan and AASA staff to lead and guide the SAC regarding its responsibilities. The SAC Vice Chairperson position may be held for two years. John will continue to serve on the SAC.

**Elect Vice Chairperson:** Roy Pentilla moved that Wendy White, who submitted an application to serve as the SAC Vice Chairperson, be elected in this capacity. Nellie Blue Seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Wendy immediately assumed the vice chairperson responsibilities.

**SAC Charge for 2016—Creative Aging—Commissioner Sheehan** presented an overview and guidance of the charge to the SAC. He reviewed the SAC's history of preparing research reports to the Commission over the years. The SAC's focus this year needs to be on the word **creative** and the SAC needs to dig deep into this topic.

- For instance, creative aging involves spirituality in all of its many forms—not religiosity, but spirituality.
- Creative aging spills over into intergenerational activities—even interspecies activities.
- Creative aging involves identifying and going after sponsorship and funding.
- Yes, creative aging has been studied throughout the country and the world. So what can we learn and begin to practice in our state, perhaps eventually inserting guidelines into the Annual Implementation Plans required for all 16 regions of the state?

**State Advisory Council on Aging**  
**June 16, 2016—Minutes**  
**Page 4**

This year's assignment reminds me of an assignment the SAC was given in 2004. We were told to study those things that make a community elder-friendly. That was a very mild assignment compared to previously assigned issues to study. However, over the long run, it has developed into the Community for a Lifetime program. The vetting process benefits seniors because it forces a community to look at what programs or features exist or are lacking locally. Ultimately, the program expanded to include more than just seniors. For example, a longer stop-and-go light at an intersection benefits a senior using a walker, a disabled middle-aged person in a wheelchair, a high school track team trying to train as a unit and a young mother pushing a baby carriage while hanging on to a toddler. Not a deep thought, but a practical one.

So how was this year's assignment arrived at? The process is always basically the same. The 15-member Commission on Services to the Aging is required by law to make an assignment. The way it's set up, the majority rules. Each commissioner gets to express a preference. The most persuasive and passionate commissioner usually sways the others.

A number of commissioners are devoted to Creative Aging and are involved in it to one degree or another. The SAC is encouraged to collaborate with the Commissioners and seek their expertise throughout the next year as the *creative aging* is researched.

**Discussion Regarding Workgroups (four):** SAC members discussed the charge and reviewed information compiled about the topic with input from Commissioners, SAC members and AASA staff. Four workgroups were chosen: A) Enrichment, B) Art, C) Health--including Emotional, and D) Spirituality. SAC members chose to participate in a workgroup of their choice. Conference calls will be held throughout the summer regarding each subtopic.

**Commissioner Sheehan** adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

**Next SAC Meeting:**

**The date was changed after the June meeting to:  
Thursday, October 27, 2016, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.,  
Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center**